

Friday 12th February 2021

Update from Chair of Governors: Chris Palmer

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well as we all continue to live our lives through these very challenging times.

There is no doubt that school life this last year has been a real test for everyone associated with our school and I think the way everyone has responded to the circumstances that have prevailed is testament to the collective determination held to do our best for our children. On behalf of the Governance Board, I would take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to each and every one of you for the part you are playing to make this possible.

Governance Board activity, of course, continues with many virtual meetings taking place on a regular basis with a full calendar of meetings for full Board meetings and other specific areas that have to be covered such as business and our responsibilities as a Church of England School. Mrs Rosser, Mrs Roy (Vice Chair) and myself continue to meet once a week to monitor progress and address any needs that have to be met.

The Board met on 8 February to cover Curriculum/Monitoring needs with governors reporting on meetings held with class teachers and members of staff who have curriculum lead responsibilities. Additionally, school data was covered by the 'Data Working Group' who report to the Board.

For this term's monitoring focus, Mrs Rosser, Mrs Roy and myself decided to concentrate on lockdown teaching arrangements in school and at home, as this will be an Ofsted focus point later, and, as governors, we are expected to track how our school is coping with the current situation. This also meets the Department for Education requirement that a high quality education continues for all. As school leaders and governors we will be much more accountable to deliver a high quality education during this lockdown.

Each class teacher was contacted to discuss the situation in each of their classes, either via a virtual meeting, email or phone call. The outcomes were fully considered at the monitoring meeting with the actual written reports held on file as valuable evidence for Ofsted should they decide to inspect the school at any time in the future. It was very pleasing to note that a consistently high standard of teaching was evidence throughout the school, and at home, with attendance and engagement levels high amongst the children.

The current situation has placed huge additional demands on our teaching staff and I believe they are doing a really fantastic job under the circumstances to support learning as best they can under these very challenging conditions. And, as mentioned above, the part you are playing in support of your children and our teaching staff is also acknowledged.

I believe we all have a school community we can feel justifiably proud of as our members of staff, parents/carers and governors work together for our children's future. Let's keep the good work up and I feel sure when we look back on our experience over the last year, we can all say "we did the very best we could for our children".

Many thanks, once again, to everyone associated with our school for your continued support and I sincerely hope you have an enjoyable half-term break with your families.

Kind Regards,

Chris Palmer
Chair of Governance Board